Setting up of Overseas Relay Stations of AIR

*145. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to set up four overseas relay stations of All India Radio; and

(b) whether the plan now has been abandoned; and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Price of Steel and Pig Iron

*146. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the price of steel and pig iron prevailing in the international markets as well as in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that steel prices in India were lower prior to 1974 as compared to prices in international markets;

(c) whether the same running custom rates are applicable to steel projects both under the Public and Private Sectors; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the uniform interest charges are also applicable to public sector units, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) It would not be realistic to compare the Indian prices with those prevailing in the international markets as the latter are often kept lower than domestic prices in the countries of origin in order to support exports. The domestic prices of Indian steel net of taxes and levies is comparable with domestic prices in countries like Japan, U.S.A. and EEC countries. A statement indicating the Indian domestic prices and the international prices as prevalent in July 1988 is annexed. (*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 50) As regards pig iron international prices estimated on FOB basis are lower than indigenous prices.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The customs duty rates for Project imports are the same for public sector units as well as the Private sector. The rates applicable for the year 1988-89 are 90 per cent.

(d) Yes, Sir. The applicable rate of interest against term lending by the financial institutions is 14 per cent per annum in respect of both public and private sectors.

States covered by Crop Insurance Scheme

*147. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States and Union Territories have been covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the amount disbursed so far State-wise for the last Kharif Crop?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) No, Sir. The Scheme has been in operation in all States except States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep.